

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of:

)	
Annual Assessment of the Status of)	MB Docket No. 12-203
Competition in the Market for the)	
Delivery of Video Programming)	

COMMENTS OF:

SCOTT COUNSELL
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I want to testify on behalf of community access cable television stations and the valuable role they serve in our communities. I speak as an access television producer for a consortium of church organizations, Zion Church Ministries/RGB Ministries of Everett, MA, and as a longtime producer and former executive director in the cable access field.

Cable access television stations are a vital outlet for local, community based programming. This type of content is extremely relevant to local audiences, who otherwise would have little or no opportunity to view such information on cable television. The push towards consolidation of media outlets has diminished the prospects for smaller, community-based organizations to reach the audiences they need to. These entities - municipal governments and school systems, local organizations such as the one for which I produce programming, and individual producers – all have essential contributions to make in the ongoing discourse in their communities. These contributions enrich the diversity of opinion and elevate the discussion on countless issues of importance in the lives of our citizens, as well as keeping them informed and entertained. And the funding structure currently in place for cable access represents a tremendous value for television consumers.

To maintain a vibrant mosaic of viewing opportunities for today’s television audiences, cable access TV deserves continued protection and support. I strongly urge the Commission to pursue policies that will ensure the health and longevity of our industry. Thank you for your time.

Scott Counsell